

From: Ron Keller
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/22/02 11:45am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

(All opinions presented are those of Ronald Keller exclusively and do not necessarily represent the opinions of any other person or organization)

To whom it may concern;

As a voluntary user of Microsoft products, I think that it is critical that the court hears my opinion. I have been trained in and used Microsoft products for seven years as a computer professional. I have had the opportunity to use products and operating systems from many corporations including Macintosh, Linux, Corel and several others. I have found Microsoft products easier to use, more consistent, more powerful and more compatible than any other companies products. I find Microsofts integration of common computer functions, such as the Internet, Local Area Networking and Multimedia functionality provides a comfortable, simple and entertaining experience.

The court seems to be insinuating in this case that I am somehow a helpless victim forced to use Microsoft's products. This is completely false and insulting. I have freely chosen to use their products after using the products of many different companies. Microsoft, in my opinion, produces the best available. It is patently untrue that I am forced into the Windows environment as the continued popularity of Macintosh products and Linux products attests. I could have used one of these products. I chose Microsoft. As a consumer, I have voted with my wallet. I question that the court has the right in a free market to change that vote.

Microsoft's success is a threat to no one. There is no such thing as a true monopoly in the rapidly changing and advancing technology market. Microsoft continues to be successful not through throttling competition, which is not possible, but through producing a superior product. The moment Microsoft stumbles from their high quality standard, which may never happen, another company will be there to pick up and run with the ball they've dropped.

The court should be reminded that it is not consumers which have initiated this suit. Consumers have overwhelmingly shown their support for Microsoft in several polls. This suit was initiated by Microsoft's competitors who have been unsuccessful against Microsoft in the market. Unable to achieve their goals through fair competition, they have come to you, the courts to attempt to do so by government force. Economic and market policy should not be set by such failed corporations. Such a policy is a condemnation of success and praise for failure.

I do not wish to see my nation enacting policy which punishes success in this manner. The American Dream is the ability of a person to rise based on his ability and willingness to work. If the suit against Microsoft is successful, it sends a clear message, "Don't become too successful or we'll punish you for it." We should be praising and looking up to self made men and women such as Bill Gates, not condemning them.

All of this is in direct relation to what our government's, and any government's, most important role is; protection of our individual rights including our right to property. Microsoft has earned its place in the market and its billions through its own productive effort. It has neither stolen nor used force to achieve this. The reason for the existence of government is to make sure that that success is not taken by force. It

is not the role of the government to take Microsoft's or Bill Gate's years of hard work and success away from them because a few lesser competitors were unable to be better.

Thank you,

Ronald Keller
Quality Assurance
Qqest Software Systems

CC: activism@moraldefense.com@inetgw,letters@capitalis...